

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 07-138364

(43)Date of publication of application : 30.05.1995

(51)Int.Cl.

C08G 69/10
C07K 14/32
C08J 5/18
D01F 4/00
// C08L 67:04

(21)Application number : 05-286519

(22)Date of filing : 16.11.1993

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(54) MOLDED POLY-GAMMA-GLUTAMIC ACID AND METHOD FOR MOLDING POLY-GAMMA-GLUTAMIC ACID

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain a practical molding such as a fiber or a film from poly-?-

glutamic acid produced by *Bacillus subtilis* by solidifying a solution of poly-?- glutamic acid by a molding process comprising steps such as coagulation, drying, etc.

CONSTITUTION: Poly-?-glutamic acid (of a molecular weight of 400000-4400000 desirably 700000-2500000) is dissolved in a solvent (e. g. water, sulfuric acid or heated dimethylsulfoxide) to form a solution,

and the obtained solution is subjected to a molding process comprising steps of coagulation, drying, etc. ,

such as a spinning process or a film forming process to obtain a molding such as a fiber or a film. The poly-?-

glutamic acid is dissolved under conditions in which the decrease in its molecular weight can be minimized,

and the solution is solidified by a molding process such as spinning under such conditions. Thus, poly-?-glutamic acid produced by *Bacillus subtilis* (e.g. *Bacillus natto*) can give a practical molding such as a fiber or a film.

LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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